

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above specification, claim and drawing amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Further, Claims 1-3, 7-12, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,923,508 to Daugherty. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-13, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,245,126 to Day. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. 2001/0042813A1 to Taylor. Applicants traverse the objections and rejections.

Applicants have herein amended Claims 1, 8 and 20. Applicants have also herein cancelled Claims 7, 15, 16 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to claim the subject matter in the cancelled claims at a later time.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants also affirm the election of Invention I, Claims 1-20 made on June 10, 2004.

In response to the objection to the drawings in the Office Action, Applicants have herein amended the drawings. Fig. 1A now shows grooves 13 and clamps 15, 17. Fig. 2A now shows

coatings 19 and 21. Applicants have made corresponding amendments to the specification to reflect reference numerals 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21. Applicants submit that the amendments made to the drawings and specification overcome the objections stated in the Office Action and introduce no new matter.

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts, “[t]he means for changing the shape of the device has not been described in the specification.” (*See* Office Action at p. 5.) Applicants disagree and submit that the “means for changing the shape of the device” correspond to, for example, the hinge and fastener described in the specification at paragraphs [0025] and [0029]. Applicants submit that, for example, “pivoting the hanging end 14 [of the skein holding device] at a hinge 16 as shown, for example, in Figs. 2A and 2B” would change the shape of the skein holding device as recited in Claim 20.

Applicants traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Daugherty. Applicants have herein amended Claim 1 to recite, “a first hooked end for connecting the device to a supporting structure, *wherein the first hooked end fits over at least a portion of the supporting structure.*” Applicants submit that Daugherty does not disclose a hooked end for “connecting the device to a supporting structure.” Certainly, Daugherty fails to disclose a hooked end that “fits over at least a portion of the supporting structure.” Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and Claims 2-6, 8-14, 17, 18 and 20 that depend from Claim 1 are allowable over Daugherty.

Applicants traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Day. Applicants have herein amended Claim 1 to recite, “a second curved end for supporting at least one skein of the

wire on the device, *wherein the second curved end comprises a latch configured for securing the at least one skein of the wire.*” Applicants submit that Day fails to disclose any kind of latch, let alone a “latch configured for securing at least one skein of the wire.” Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and Claims 2-6, 8-14, 17, 18 and 20 that depend from Claim 1 are allowable over Day.

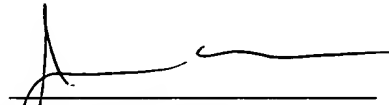
Applicants traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Taylor. Applicants have herein amended Claim 1 to recite, “a second curved end for supporting at least one skein of the wire on the device, *wherein the second curved end comprises a latch configured for securing the at least one skein of the wire.*” Applicants submit that Taylor, like Day, fails to disclose any kind of latch, let alone a “latch configured for securing at least one skein of the wire.” Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and Claims 2-6, 8-14, 17, 18 and 20 that depend from Claim 1 are allowable over Taylor.

Applicants are not otherwise conceding, however, the correctness of the Office’s rejection with respect to any of the dependent claims discussed above and hereby reserve the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary because the dependent claims include additional features that further distinguish the claims from the cited references, taken alone or in combination. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the basic differences in the independent claims pointed out above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1A and 2A. These sheets, which include Figs. 1A and 2A and 2B, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1A and 2A and 2B.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets

Two Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Fig 1A

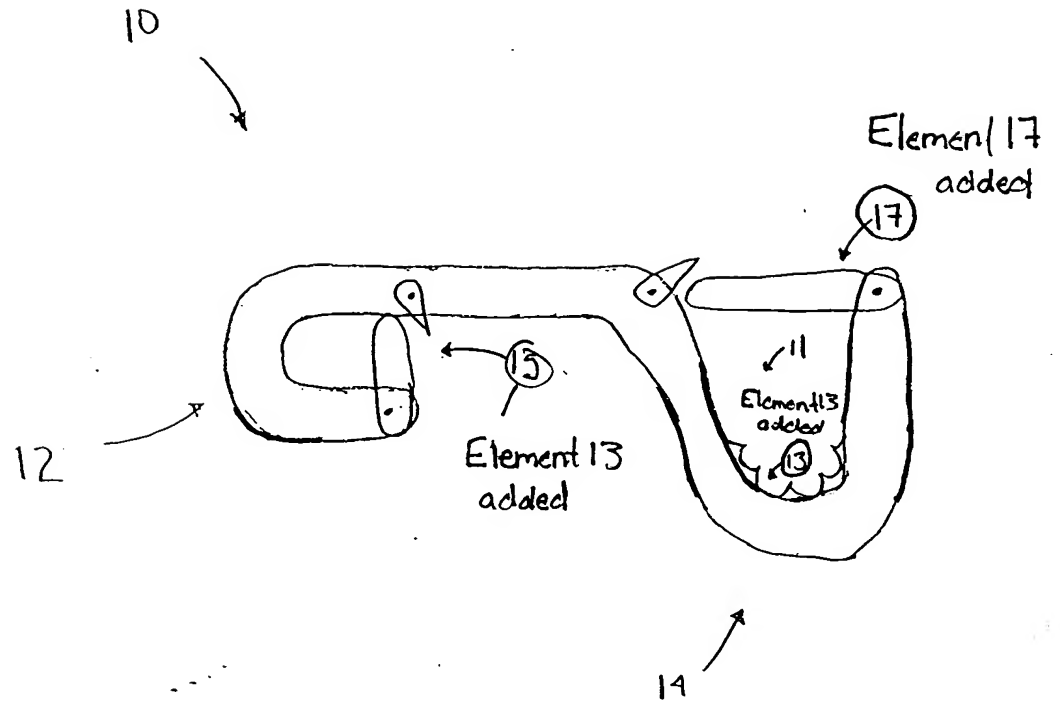


Fig. 2A

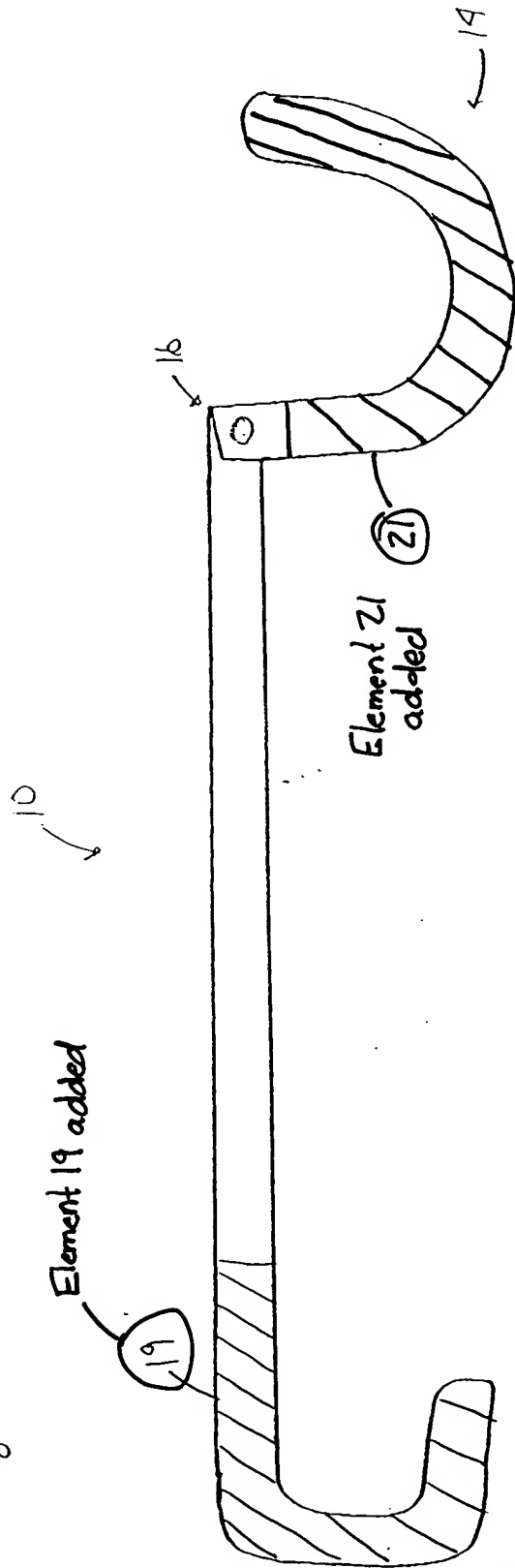


Fig. 2B

